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4 September 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Briefing of Under Secretary of State and Director of Intelligence and Research, Department of State, on 26 August 1958 re Mission 6017

1. As a follow-up to a promise made to Mr. Cussing last week, following completion of Mission 6017, I got in touch with him on 26 August and arranged for a briefing on the mission to include photography. At this time I asked him if the Under Secretary of State, Mr. Christian Herter, would be interested in seeing the photography and hearing about the mission itself. Mr. Cussing indicated that he was sure the Under Secretary would be interested, based on an earlier statement to that effect made to Mr. Cussing. Accordingly, a briefing was arranged in the office of the Under Secretary to which the undersigned went at 1530 hours in company with [redacted] Director of Operations, Project CHALICE.

2. We were very warmly received by Mr. Herter who introduced us to his Special Assistant, Mr. Harry F. Stinson, Jr. Mr. Cussing assured me that Mr. Stinson had a clearance obtained just prior to a trip to Omaha where he, Stinson, was obliged to go and at which place Project matters apparently were discussed. It was not clear to me, however, whether he had been cleared by "T" and CHALICE Security people, yet it was my feeling that we could not embarrass the Under Secretary by asking for bona fides at a time like this.

3. [redacted] did the major part of the briefing, including a synopsis of the actual mission track [redacted]

[redacted] Mr. Herter appeared considerably interested [redacted]

[redacted] I suspect that a good deal of his interest, not only in the mission and the photography, but the potential intelligence to be derived therefrom,

State Dept. review completed

This document contains information
referring to [redacted]

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stemmed from the fact that he, Mr. Harter, was the one who gave the State Department approval for the conduct of the mission in the absence of Mr. John Foster Dulles, Secretary of State.

4. Mr. Harter asked a number of good questions about the techniques of the flight, together with the airfields and installations which he saw on the photography, and on the whole appeared quite gratified by the mission itself. It might be appropriate to mention here that at the beginning of our discussion with Mr. Harter, Mr. Canning advised him that earlier in the day the President had approved not only the [redacted] but a single overflight penetration to Polyarny Ural in the USSR. Mr. Harter was interested in the whereabouts of Polyarny Ural and at that point [redacted] and I showed him a briefing map of the USSR and adjacent areas on which the PU mission was plotted. The same map contained the layouts of the four or five missions proposed [redacted] which the President had not approved. After having had the [redacted] explained to him, Mr. Harter inquired about the meaning of the other mission plans displayed on the map. He was told by [redacted] and myself that these had been part of a [redacted] which the President had not approved. We did indicate to him that we would not be surprised, however, if the whole [redacted] question were brought up should the PU mission prove wholly successful. At this, he laughed heartily and said, "I should have known as much."

5. Following the briefing of Mr. Harter, I inquired of Mr. Canning when he thought the Secretary of State might wish to receive a briefing on Mission 6017. Mr. Canning indicated that Mr. Dulles was due back in Washington sometime on Tuesday, 2 September, and that he, Mr. Canning, would advise my office when and if the Secretary should desire to see the photography.

15/
 [redacted]
 JAMES A. CUSHINGHAM, JR.
 Director of Administration
 DPS/DCI

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